

UNDERSTANDING LARGE MOVEMENTS OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

First GMG multi-stakeholder meeting in preparation for the
High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees
and migrants

United Nations, Conference Room 7
25 April 2016, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Concept note and programme

Introduction

On 19 September 2016, the General Assembly will hold a High-level Plenary Meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants (A/70/L.34). The Global Migration Group (GMG), an inter-agency cooperation mechanism consisting of 17 entities of the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), will organize a series of interactive, multi-stakeholder meetings in order to assist representatives from Member States, international organizations, and civil society in preparing for the 19 September 2016 event. The half-day meetings will feature panels of experts from international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the research community. Each of the meetings will focus on a particular substantive area which is anticipated to be covered by the report of the Secretary-General prepared for the high-level event. The meetings will be informal in nature, providing ample space for an interactive dialogue with the panellists and the audience. A short report, summarizing the discussions, will be made available before 19 September 2016.

Understanding large movements of refugees and migrants

The first GMG meeting will provide an overview of the magnitude, drivers and impact of large movements of refugees and migrants. The meeting will be organized by the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and co-chaired by the permanent missions of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Kingdom of Thailand.

The opening will feature brief statements by UN Women in its capacity as 2016 Chair of the Global Migration Group and the co-chairs of the meeting.

The first panel will provide an overview of global levels and trends in international migration and refugee movements. It will discuss the role of population dynamics as a driver for migration in the context of understanding and promoting orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. It will take stock of the current global refugee situation, focusing on causes of refugee movements, protracted displacement and the role of durable solutions in addressing the plight of refugees. The panel will also consider the role of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in addressing large movements of refugees and migrants as well as the role of environmental factors and climate change in migration and displacement.

The second panel will focus on the impact of, and responses to, large movements of refugees and migrants. The panel will consider the integration of migration and displacement in development planning, highlight the significant contribution of migrants and refugees to countries of origin, transit and destination, and address the challenges of mass population flows for women and children.

PROGRAMME

- 10.00 - 10.15 Opening
Lakshmi Puri, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women
H.E. Karel van Oosterom, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
H.E. Virachai Plasai, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand
- 10.15 - 11.30 Panel I: Migration, refugees and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- International migration and refugee movements: A global overview
Bela Hovy, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Understanding large refugee movements
Ninette Kelley, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- Migration, displacement and climate change
Susana Adamo, Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University
- Towards orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration
Michele Klein-Solomon, International Organization for Migration
- Migration, displacement and the SDGs: A civil society perspective
Lisa Simeone, Global Migration Policy Associates
- Interactive debate
- Moderator: *Ann Pawliczko, United Nations Population Fund*
- 11.30 - 12.45 Panel II: Impact of large movements of refugees and migrants
- The impact of large refugee and migratory flows in host countries
Xavier de Victor, World Bank
- Resilience based development solutions for large population movements
Owen Shumba, United Nations Development Programme
- Development dimensions of migrants and refugees in countries of origin
Pedro Tigre De Vasconcelos, International Fund of Agricultural Development
- Protecting and empowering women and girls in situations of mass displacement
Marcy Hersh, Women's Refugee Commission
- Interactive debate
- Moderator: *Kerry Neal, United Nations Children Fund*
- 12.45 - 1.00 Summary by the rapporteur and concluding remarks by the co-chairs